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**Subject:** OPA Morning Clips - 12/17/15

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Editorial: Politics and money drive advocates of keeping radioactive waste in Bridgeton** - 12/16/15 - More than a group of concerned citizens who say they don't want contaminated waste transported through their communities, the righteously named "Coalition to Keep Us Safe" is a political campaign in action. It has little to do with keeping anyone safe, considering that there already have been more than 1 million cubic yards of contaminated material shipped by rail through Missouri since the 1990s. Where was the coalition then?

[http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/editorial-politics-and-money-drive-advocates-of-keeping-radioactive-waste/article\\_1a0039b2-6929-511e-b6dc-c0f9c163efed.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/editorial-politics-and-money-drive-advocates-of-keeping-radioactive-waste/article_1a0039b2-6929-511e-b6dc-c0f9c163efed.html)

**The Examiner Post - EPA to announce new order for troubled landfill** - 12/17/15 - The EPA has ordered surface fire prevention for the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, MO, following a recent grass fire at the site. "We see these as very common-sense basic engineering controls to help address any challenges that might occur if a surface fire were to occur". EPA Region 7 Administrator Mark Hague will offer details Thursday afternoon.

<http://examinerpost.com/epa-to-announce-new-order-for-troubled-landfill/>

**Times Oracle - EPA Orders Surface Fire Prevention Measures at Bridgeton Landfill** - 12/17/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency is ordering surface fire prevention measures at a St. Louis-area landfill where nuclear waste was illegally dumped in 1973. The order comes after an October brush fire at the entrance to the north St. Louis County landfill raised concerns about the consequences of a surface fire reaching radioactive waste at West Lake. "And this is only to be done on an interim measure until we get a final remedy selected and implemented", said EPA regional director Mark Hague on Thursday.

<http://timesoracle.com/2015/12/epa-orders-surface-fire-prevention-measures-at-bridgeton.html>

**Kansas City Star - Appeals court leaves EPA mercury pollution rule in effect** - 12/15/15 - An appeals court has agreed to leave intact a federal rule targeting mercury pollution from coal- and oil-fired plants while government officials decide how to account for its costs.

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/business/national-international/article49820890.html>

**Iowa Public Radio - America's 'Third Wave' Of Asbestos Disease Upends Lives** - 12/17/15 - The fire-resistant mineral first had killed asbestos miners, millers and manufacturing workers. Then it had taken out insulators, shipbuilders and others who worked with asbestos products. Eventually, conference attendees agreed, it would be roused from its dormant state in pipes, ceiling tiles and automobile brakes

and kill again.

<http://iowapublicradio.org/post/americas-third-wave-asbestos-disease-upends-lives#stream/0>

**Columbia Daily Tribune - EPA social media blitz broke law** - 12/15/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency broke the law in a social media campaign intended to generate public support for a controversial rule to protect small streams and wetlands from development and pollution, congressional auditors said Monday.

[http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/epa-social-media-blitz-broke-law/article\\_e86850d0-8257-57f2-b259-748033c35666.html](http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/epa-social-media-blitz-broke-law/article_e86850d0-8257-57f2-b259-748033c35666.html)

**The Hill - Spending bill keeps EPA funding flat in 2016** - 12/16/15 - Congressional leaders have agreed to keep Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding flat in 2016 and Republicans have yielded in their fight to block agency rulemaking through the spending process.

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/263411-spending-bill-keeps-epa-funding-flat-in-2016>

**BNA - WHAT ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FOLLOWERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE OMNIBUS** - 12/16/15 - The omnibus spending bill for fiscal year 2016, released today, provides \$8.1 billion to the Environmental Protection Agency. The House Appropriations Committee's summary of Interior and Environment appropriations is here and the full text of the omnibus – all 2009 pages of it – is here.

<http://www.bna.com/energy-environment-followers-b57982065192/>

**E&E News - Lawmakers negotiate end to export ban, throw out major riders** - 12/16/15 - Congressional leaders unveiled a \$1.15 trillion fiscal 2016 spending bill overnight that scraps limits on crude oil exports but includes no major policy riders.

<http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060029573>

**Daily Caller - EPA Awards \$542M To Colleges That Watchdog Never Audits** - 12/17/15 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials gave \$542 million to colleges and universities in grants to study everything from pollution caused by backyard grilling to hotel shower use, but those funds have never been audited by a government watchdog.

<http://dailycaller.com/2015/12/17/epa-awards-542m-to-colleges-that-watchdog-never-audits/>

**Radio Iowa - DNR meeting on Baaken pipeline permit starts out noisy** - 12/17/15 - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources public meeting on the request for a construction permit for the Baaken

oil pipeline started out at a fever pitch Wednesday evening.

<http://www.radioiowa.com/2015/12/17/dnr-meeting-on-baaken-pipeline-permit-starts-out-noisy/>

**Des Moines Register - Pipeline opponents raise ruckus at forum - 12/16/15** - A ruckus developed Wednesday night when opponents of the proposed Bakken oil pipeline angrily accused Iowa Department of Natural Resources officials of trying to prevent them from publicly voicing objections at a meeting attended by about 150 people in Des Moines.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2015/12/16/pipeline-opponents-raise-ruckus-forum/77425986/>

**Kansas City Star - EPA: New vehicle mileage holds steady at 24.3 mpg in 2014 - 12/16/15** - The Environmental Protection Agency says fuel economy stayed flat as technological improvements to automotive engines and transmissions were offset by a resurgent demand for larger vehicles.

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/business/article50048895.html>